A TREATISE OF Wool and Cattel.

In a Letter written to a Friend,

Occasion'd upon a

DISCOURSE

CONCERNING

The great Abatements of RENTS,

AND

Low Value of LANDS.

Wherein is shewed how their Worth and Value may be advanced by the Improvement of the Manufacture of our English Wool, and the spending of our Cattel.

And is farther proved, that Cloathing and Hospitality tend to the support of the Honour, Wealth, and Strength of our *English* Nation.

Licensed, *March* 28. 1677. *Ro. L'Estrange.*

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To the honorable Conier
Darcy Thesse

A LETTER written to a Friend,

OCCASIONED

Upon a DISCOURSE

Concerning the great Abatement of RENTS, And the Low Value now upon LANDS.

SIR,

WEre it not for diſcovering my ſelf in that Nature which I am altogether averſe to, I would here make a Dedication of this to your Name, and thereby let the Nation know, how truely and vigilantly you concern your ſelf for the Publick Good and Welfare of your Country. But your Actions ſhew that, as well as your Loyalty to your King, which can only render you the more fit for Publick Imployment.

Sir, You may pleaſe to remember, upon the Diſcourſe we had on this Subject, that it was your deſire I would give you the Heads and Subſtance thereof againſt the Meeting of the Parliament; that as you found a convenient opportunity and compliance with you herein by ſome of your Fellow-Members, with whom you did intend firſt to adviſe, you would accordingly proceed in it for the Publick-Good.

Sir, I have perform'd my promiſe, and done my endeavour; which, conſidering the ſhortneſs of the time I had for the expreſſing my thoughts, I hope you will excuſe the rude dreſs it comes to your hands in: the plainer *Engliſh* it ſpeaks, the better it ſuits with, and moſt agreable is to its deſigne. But I judge it will meet with many ſqueamiſh and outlandiſh Stomacks, that cannot digeſt our *Engliſh* Food; and many others that muſt wear finer Cloath than can be made of their own Wool: for theſe I except againſt, they are the chief perſons concern'd, and their Evidence is not to be taken in their own Cauſe. For as they bear no part with us but in the general Loſs, ſo we will leave them, 'till their own experience makes them ſenſible what enemies they have been already to themſelves and the whole Kingdom, and what they will be to the Ages that ſucceed them. But the true-bred *Engliſhman* is the perſon here to be diſcours'd with, who I am ſure will willingly put to his helping hand to re-store his Lands to their former Value and Worth again. And although many Offers have been made of late years for *Englands* Improvement, which ſhews that we are ſufficiently ſenſible of our decaying Condition, if we could but tell how to help our ſelves, yet it is a great Queſtion, Whether ſeveral of theſe Deſignes might in the end prove for the real Good and Benefit of this Kingdom: As to endeavour the Planting of ſeveral Forreign Commodities, whereby to engroſs the Manufacture of other Nations to our ſelves; for the ſaving, as we alledge, many thouſands of Pounds at home, which they coſt us abroad: And the cutting of ſo many Rivers, to make them Navigable through the very heart of moſt parts of the Kingdom to *London*, whereby all our

Trade

Trade and Carriage might paſs up and down without Waggons and Horſes, at far cheaper rates than now they do by them, with ſeveral other the like Projects, that carry with them fair pretences of Thrift and Good Huſbandry; while on the other hand it might eaſily be made appear, that many of thoſe deſignes would prove ſo diſadvantageous to us, notwithſtanding the ſpecious ſhew of profit, that our Lands, which are already fallen a third part, would not then in moſt parts of the Kingdom yield the one half, eſpecially the Paſture and Meadow-grounds. For it is not the having all things of our own growth on the one hand, and the ſaving of our Money on the other, can make us rich; neither can our increaſe and plenty in ſome ſence be ſaid to be our Wealth, if we have not a ſuitable Vend and Conſumption thereof: Beſides, Nature hath otherwaies provided, and ſo furniſht each particular Part of the World with ſomething which the reſt want, whereby to preſerve a Friendſhip and Commerce together.

Sir, I have hinted at this, that the following Diſcourſe might meet with the leſs prejudice, when the deſigne of it ſhall appear, That it is not for the prohibiting any Forraign Commodity, or for the ingroſſing all within our own growth; but that which we call our own Growth and Manufacture may be ſpent, if not by others abroad, yet among our ſelves at home: And this I think is ſo reaſonable, that no Nation in the World but will allow us that liberty.

Let us now proceed to that which is intended in this following Diſcourſe, and in the firſt place to ſhew how much our Eſtates and Rents are fallen from their former Value within theſe few years, and what may pro-

bably be the Cauſes thereof; with ſome ways and means that may be conceived neceſſary to reſtore them to that value and eſteem again.

Firſt then, that our Rents are abated, and that the Value of our Lands are ſo fallen, moſt mens particular experience will juſtifie me in the truth hereof: For from Twenty years purchaſe, the uſual rate not many years ſince, they are now ſunk to 18 at the higheſt, and in ſome places 16 or 17 Years purchaſe is the ſelling rate, and theſe very ſame Eſtates too at a low undervalue. So that if we ſum up what an Hundred Pound a Year, the Rent well paid, was worth 30 or 40 years ſince, in the beginning of our late Rebellious Wars, we ſhall finde that the real value of our Eſtates are a third part leſs than they were then, and but two parts of three of what Money they would have yielded then, can now be raiſed, where any man hath occaſion to ſell. For Example, Let an Hundred Pound a Year be the Standard; the juſt value then this Hundred Pound a Year would have yielded at 20 Years purchaſe, is Two Thouſand Pound: Now there is twenty Pound a year with the leaſt, and in many places thirty Pound a year abatement in Rent out of this 100: we will touch the ſore as eaſie as poſſible, and allow but 20 *per Annum* abatement, ſo there remains but 80, which at eighteen Years purchaſe comes to 1440 *l.* So that at this rate here is near a third part loſt of the real value what the Lands and Eſtates of the Kingdom were formerly worth. And this we may believe the preſent Parliament are very ſenſible of, witneſs their many Debates in their late ſeveral Seſſions, about raiſing Money for his Majeſties Supplies, and the great care the Houſes then took in all thoſe Debates, that none of thoſe Supplies

ſhould

ſhould be provided for by a Land-Tax, whilſt there could any other way poſſibly be found out or thought upon. And thoſe ſmall helps, as the Exciſe on the Law, *&c.* which are ſo long a raiſing, but a very inconſiderable Sum at laſt, cannot be lookt upon to ſtand the King or Kingdom in any ſtead, ſhould there be any extraordinary occaſion for Money. If we ſhould expect any ſupply from the Merchant and from Trade, they will tell you, That there is as much Cuſtome and Exciſe laid upon all ſorts of Commodities, as the Trade is able to bear: this ſhall be the general Anſwer of the whole body of Merchants and the Whole-ſale Dealers throughout the Kingdom, eſpecially in *London*; ſo that little help is to be expected from them. What encouragement then have we to take all the care imaginable to preſerve that which will ſtand us but in little ſtead, and to neglect that which muſt be our only ſupport and ſtay in our greateſt neceſſity? Have we not reaſon then to endeavour the reſtoring our Lands and Rents to their former value and eſteem, when we have hardly any other way left for the preſervation of our Lives, Eſtates, yea and our Trade too? For ſhould there be any extraordinary occaſion for a preſent Supply of Money, when all Heads and Wits are puzzel'd which way to raiſe it, there can be no ſpeedier way poſſibly found out, than by a Land-Tax, (or Subſidy) which is much the ſame, provided our Lands and Rents may be raiſed to their former value and eſteem.

This being then the true ſtate of the Caſe, and the condition we are fallen into ſince the beginning of the late War, let us now proceed to examine the Cauſes of this great Miſchief, to make way for remedying the ſame; and theſe (with ſubmiſſion to better Judgments) may

may be ſumm'd up into theſe Two grand ones.

Firſt, The low price our Wool now bears, which at this time is not worth above 7 *d.* a pound: the ſame a few years ſince was worth 12 *d.* and in the very height of our War was worth 16 *d.* and 18 *d.* a pound; and as the price of this one Staple-Commodity did abate, ſo we may eaſily ſatisfie our ſelves that our Rents did accordingly fall, and by conſequence Land did by degrees looſe its eſteem as to the years purchaſe.

Secondly, The laying aſide that Hoſpitality and good Houſe-keeping (which was the Glory and Honour of this Nation) whereby our Cattle ſo much increas'd upon us, that many of them ſtood us in little other ſtead, than to ſpend our Graſs and Hay, that it might not rot upon the Ground, or lye upon our hands: And was the occaſion of that *Iriſh* Act, the conſequences whereof we are ſomething ſenſible of, though not ſo much as another Age perhaps may be; quite contrary to the practice of former Ages, when we were forc'd to keep Lent, chiefly to preſerve our young Cattle for a breed.

Theſe are the two chief and principal Commodities, (to wit) our Wool and Cattle, the low Rates of which we may conceive without diſpute to be the great Cauſes of the abatement of Rents, and low value now upon Land: And theſe brought to the prices they were formerly at, we may hope to ſee our Kingdom as flouriſhing as in former Ages, as full of Plenty and Peace at home, and as much honour'd and fear'd abroad as ever: What *Engliſh*-man is there that would not rejoyce to ſee that day? And let but each particular perſon, upon examining this Diſcourſe, ſet to his helping hand according to his Quality, and the Capacity he is in,

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we may ſee a fair progreſs towards it in few years.

Let us enquire in the firſt place into the Reaſons of the low Rates and Prices of our Wool, and we ſhall finde that we may bring them under theſe few chief Heads: For I ſhall not concern my ſelf with the factious humours of many, and I fear a great part of our Clothiers and Traders, and their deſigns too, in falling the price of our Wool; which in time together with their Factions we hope may wear out.

1. *Firſt* then, The great quantity of *Spaniſh* Wool ſold here at very low rates, and that made into Cloath, and a good part of it worn by our ſelves, is a very great Cauſe of the abatement and low price of ours.

2. *Secondly*, The not wearing and otherways uſing the Cloath made of our own Wool, both by our ſelves at home, and by our People in our ſeveral Plantations abroad, may be lookt upon as another Cauſe of the great abatement of the price of our Wool.

3. *Thirdly*, The decaying condition of the Merchant-Adventurers, and *Hamborough*-Company, who did formerly ſend away ſo many of our *Engliſh*-Cloaths into *Germany*, and all thoſe Eaſtern parts of *Europe*, more than they now do, may be reckon'd another Cauſe of the low price of our Wool.

4. *Fourthly*, The not making our Cloath of that ſize and ſubſtance as it ought to be, as by ſeveral Statutes to that purpoſe it may appear; and for which the *Alnage*-Office was at firſt eſtabliſht.

5. And *laſtly*, The great Abuſes and Cheats of late years put upon our Clothiers, by the Brokers and Factors at *Blackwell*-Hall, to the breaking and undoing of many of our young Clothiers, eſpecially if their Stocks be ſmall. Theſe may be accounted ſome of the chief

Cauſes of the great abatement and low price of our Wool.

We will examine them in their order; and firſt concerning the *Spaniſh* Wool. If we look no farther back than 1660, the Year of his Majeſties happy Reſtauration, we ſhall finde that the Superfine *Spaniſh* Wool (as they term it) was ſold for 4 *s.* and 4 *s.* 4 *d.* the Pound, and the other ſorts at 3 *s.* and 3 *s.* 6 *d.* the Pound, according as it was in goodneſs: And our Wool at that time was ſold for 16 *d.* and 18 *d.* the Pound. Now this preſent year 1676 the Superfine *Spaniſh* Wool is not worth above 2 *s.* or 2 *s.* and 2 *d.* the Pound, and the other ſorts at 20 *d.* and 22 *d.* the Pound; and our Wool will not yield above 7 *d.* or 8 *d.* a Pound. So that in 16 Years time, our Wool is fallen the one half and more; and ſo long as the *Spaniſh* Wool is ſold at this low rate, it is not likely that ours can advance in price: And if ſo, then our Rents, eſpecially thoſe Farms that depend moſt upon Corn and Sheep, muſt continue at this low ebb they are now at, if they fall no lower. The removal then of this great Miſchief, is the next thing we are to conſider; and herein I muſt content my ſelf to receive the Cenſures of ſeveral Perſons of the contrary party, I mean thoſe perſons whoſe fortunes and imployments lye principally in the buying, not growing of this Commodity; but they are not ſo many.

Firſt then, *Spaniſh* Wool muſt of neceſſity advance ſomthing towards the price it was formerly at, when our Wool yielded 16 *d.* and 18 *d.* the Pound: For that being ſo much finer than ours, and bearing but a low price, we cannot expect ours ſhould riſe: and if this advance of the *Spaniſh* Wool is not to be expected from

from abroad, then we muſt endeavour what can be done at home.

If ſome Duty or Cuſtome were laid upon it (I ſhall not preſume to propoſe the Sum) ſo as to bring it to bear a conſiderable Rate; His Majeſty by this means would receive a good addition to his Cuſtomes, and our own Wool would be brought to a conſiderable price. As for the prohibiting this or moſt other forrain Commodities, we may finde upon examination, and by experience too, that that way will not ſo well anſwer our deſigne, as the laying a ſufficient Duty upon them, more or leſs, according to the quality of the Commodity. I will inſtance only in the *Iriſh* Act: if 20 or 30 *s.* more or leſs upon a Bullock, and 5 *s.* upon a Sheep, or thereabout, had been laid as a Duty upon them, inſtead of prohibiting them; we had not only continued ſtill our Trade and Commerce with them, but His Majeſty had received ere this many a Thouſand Pound for his Cuſtome. For as the caſe now ſtands, the King receives no advantage by them; His Officers in all Ports where they are landed (being not obliged by their Office, take no notice of them) do rather help the concealing them, than any way endeavour a ſeizure: which if otherwiſe, they were then all bound by their Offices to receive his Majeſties Duty; and then each Bullock and Sheep paying ſo much Cuſtome, they could not under-ſell us; which was the great deſigne of that Act, *viz.* The keeping up the price of our *Engliſh* Cattle. So that an Impoſt upon this, as well as all other Commodities, will better anſwer our Intereſt and Deſignes againſt them, than a Prohibition; for here can be no other ſhift, if the Officers be honeſt and careful, but the paying their Money.

But here will ariſe an Objection.

If this ſhould be ſo, that a Duty ſhould be impoſed upon the Spaniſh *Wool, then would the* Dutch *and other Nations get away our Trade, by underſelling us in all places where* Spaniſh *Cloath is a Commodity: For if we muſt pay dearer for our Wool than they, we cannot expect to have any Trade (with them) where this Commodity is vended: For neither will our Clothiers make it, or our Merchants buy it, if they cannot ſee ſome probability of Profit and Advantage: Beſides, the* Spaniard *will take it amiſs if he ſhould ſuffer by it; and we muſt not differ with him, with whom we have at this time ſo great a Trade.*

To the firſt part of this Objection; We muſt believe that the *Dutch* are a people that will looſe no opportunity of profit where they can get it; and if they could vend more *Spaniſh* Cloath than they do, we muſt alſo believe they would make more if they could, they having the ſame liberty to buy the Wool as well as we. But there is little danger of their getting this Trade from us this way. For they have their hands as full already, and do make as much Cloath as they have people to imploy about it, with reſpect to their other buſineſs and Manufactures.

As to the other part of the Objection that concerns the *Dutch*, *That if we give more for* Spaniſh *Wool than they, then we muſt of courſe be underſold by them, and ſo by conſequence looſe our Trade.*

We muſt firſt be inform'd what ſort of *Spaniſh* Cloath it is they chiefly make, and where it is vended, to do us this miſchief. As for the ſorts of Cloath they make, they are moſt blacks, and many of them ſold here, and worn by our ſelves; and this I hope may be remedied: but

but for the Medlies, I ſuppoſe they make but few, for the *French* and others, with whom we trade for them, cannot be furniſht by any other Nation in the world but by us; ſo that if we raiſe the price of them among our ſelves, we ſhall not be in danger to be underſold by the *Dutch*.

And as to that part of the Objection concerning the *Spaniards* receiving a prejudice by our laying a Duty upon their Wool, I cannot ſee where that can be: For if we buy it not, and that the *Dutch* and others are able to Manufacture it, we only looſe our trade, but we do the *Spaniard* no injury at all: But if we are the people that can make this Cloath as well as our own, and that the *French* and others cannot have thoſe ſorts of Medlies but from our hands; then thoſe that trade with us for them, muſt advance their price according to what they will ſtand our Clothiers in, when a Duty ſhall be laid upon that Wool.

But what is all this to that which we have to ſay for our ſelves? here is a third part of the real value of our Kingdom within theſe few years loſt, and that principally by the fall in price of this one Commodity; and we have no way poſſibly left to raiſe Money upon any urgent occaſion, but by our Eſtates. And have we not reaſon then (as I ſaid before) to endeavour out uttermoſt to reſtore them to their former value and eſteem again? Which way had it been poſſible for the Nation, in the late War, to have maintain'd ſo many vaſt Armies in all parts and corners thereof, had not that War begun upon us in the very heighth of our Wealth and Plenty, when our Wool at that time was worth three times the price it now yields, with a full Trade for our Cloath, both at home and abroad, eſpecially into *Germany*, *Sweden*, and all thoſe *Eaſtern* Countreys? And

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our Cattle then paid ſufficient profit both to the Breeder and Graſier, and Gold was as plenty with us then, as it was in *Jeruſalem*, in the reign of King *Solomon*. There was no throwing of Farms into the Landlords hands, no complaining of hard Rents, every Commodity of ours then yielded a profit, for we had a conſumption for them: and the poor could not want for Victuals, when the Kitchin was accounted the beſt Room in the Houſe. But of this, when we come to the other part of this Diſcourſe.

The *Second* Cauſe of this great Abatement of the price of our Wool may be this, *viz.* The wearing and uſing of ſo much *Spaniſh* Cloath our ſelves, both at home, and in our ſeveral Plantations abroad; whereas if we were but injoyn'd to wear, and otherways to uſe no Cloath but what is made of our own *Engliſh* Wool, we ſhould finde ſome alteration in the price of it in few years: and I doubt not but our Clothiers could pick out enough, of the fineſt ſort of it, to make Cloath very little inferiour to the *Spaniſh*. And it is eaſie to be made appear, that we ſpend as much *Spaniſh* Cloath in our own Kingdomes, and Plantations belonging to the Crown of *England*, (and a great part of that too not manufactur'd by our people, as *Dutch* Blacks, *&c.*) as is worn in any other Kingdome of the World beſides, if not more. So that if any ſhall object againſt the laying a Duty upon the *Spaniſh* Wool, I hope they will give us leave to enjoyn our own people to wear no Cloath, but what is manufactured by our ſelves, and made of our own Wool. And if this conſumption of our Cloath at home be added but to that Trade we have yet left abroad for it, we ſhould ſoon finde an increaſe in the price of our Wool. And I know no reaſon that the

Spaniard

Spaniard, or any elſe, ſhould be offended with us for endeavouring our own intereſt and advantage, the general deſigne of all Nations: neither can this ſpending of our own Cloath among our ſelves, hinder any thing of our Trade abroad.

And that this may appear to be no new or upſtart Project, the Statutes of 11 *Edward* 3. Cap. 1, 2, & 3. may ſufficiently ſatisfie us. In which Kings Reign it was, that the Manufacture of our Wool began to be our National Imployment: [*As* N. B. *in a Book call'd* The Hiſtorical Diſcourſe, *obſerves.*] For among all our Staple Commodities, Wool had at that time the precedency, as being the moſt principal and ancient Commodity of the Kingdom, wherein the generality of the people were deeply concern'd: And the Manufacture of it, though of long uſe among our ſelves, yet it receiv'd but little incouragement for a Trade into Forreign parts till theſe times; the *Flemings* having the principal Manufacture then, by the continual ſupply of Wool that they receiv'd from hence.

But the Wiſdome of this great Prince ſoon diſcern'd of what unſpeakable Value the Manufacture of our own Wool would be to the Trade of this Kingdom; who, like a provident and careful Father, looks farther than his preſent time; and who, being well accquainted with the *Flemings* affairs, by a Joynt-engagement with them in the War with *France*, had therein gain'd ſo good an opinion amongſt them, that he might adventure to change a Complement for a Courteſie. The Staples where our Wool was ſold being now taken clean away, and by the Statute of 11 *Edw.* 3. Cap. 1. made Felony to carry any Wool out of the Realm; He now proſecutes his deſigne for the ſetling of the Manu-

Manufacture at home, and repreſents to thoſe *Flemings* the danger they were in by the bordering Wars with *France*, and the peaceable condition of *England*, and Freedome of the People that are Subjects here; propounds an Invitation for them to come over hither, wherein he promiſes them the ſame Priviledges and Immunities with his own Subjects: which they accepted, and came over and brought their Manufacture with them, which could never after be removed hence. So as now the Manufacture and our Wool were joyned together; and ſo long as they agree together, both will thrive: but if they once part (as the *Spaniſh* Wool at this time puts fair at it) they will both be looſers in the concluſion.

The Manufacture of our Wool being brought to this ſettlement at home, this Heroick King *Edward* the Third makes this other Statute in the ſame 11*th* year of his Reign, *That no Merchant, Forrain nor Denizen, nor any other, after the Feaſt of St.* Michael, *ſhall cauſe to be brought privily or apertly, by himſelf, nor by any other, into the ſaid Lands of* England, Ireland, Wales *and* Scotland *within the Kings Power, any Cloaths made in any other places than in the ſame, upon Forfeiture of the ſaid Cloath, and further to be puniſh'd at the Kings Will as is aforeſaid.*

But becauſe this Nation formerly had been, and ſtill is too much wedded to the wearing of Forreign Manufactures, the importing of which did hinder the uſing of our own home-made Manufactures; (for too much of them make our own a drug, our Nation poor, and our People to want work:) As a cure for this diſeaſe our own *Engliſh* Cloath is enjoyned by a Law to be worn by all perſons under the degree of a Lord; and

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we may ſee a fair progreſs towards it in few years.

Let us enquire in the firſt place into the Reaſons of the low Rates and Prices of our Wool, and we ſhall finde that we may bring them under theſe few chief Heads: For I ſhall not concern my ſelf with the factious humours of many, and I fear a great part of our Clothiers and Traders, and their deſigns too, in falling the price of our Wool; which in time together with their Factions we hope may wear out.

1. *Firſt* then, The great quantity of *Spaniſh* Wool ſold here at very low rates, and that made into Cloath, and a good part of it worn by our ſelves, is a very great Cauſe of the abatement and low price of ours.

2. *Secondly*, The not wearing and otherways uſing at home, and by our People in our ſeveral parts abroad, may be lookt upon as another Cauſe of the great abatement of the price of our Wool.

3. *Thirdly*, The decaying condition of the Merchant-Adventurers, and *Hamborough*-Company, who did formerly ſend away ſo many of our *Engliſh*-Cloaths into *Germany*, and all thoſe Eaſtern parts of *Europe*, more than they now do, may be reckon'd another Cauſe of the low price of our Wool.

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We will examine them in their order; and first concerning the *Spanish* Wool. If we look no farther back than 1660, the Year of his Majesties happy Restauration, we shall finde that the Superfine *Spanish* Wool (as they term it) was sold for 4 *s.* and 4 *s.* 4 *d.* the Pound, and the other sorts at 3 *s.* and 3 *s.* 6 *d.* the Pound, according as it was in goodness: And our Wool at that time was sold for 16 *d.* and 18 *d.* the Pound. Now this present year 1676 the Superfine *Spanish* Wool is not worth above 2 *s.* or 2 *s.* and 2 *d.* the Pound, and the other sorts at 20 *d.* and 22 *d.* the Pound; and our Wool will not yield above 7 *d.* or 8 *d.* a Pound. So that in 16 Years time, our Wool is fallen the [illegible] *Spanish* Wool is sold at [illegible] and more [illegible] this low rate, it is not likely that ours can advance in price: And if so, then our Rents, especially those Farms that depend most upon Corn and Sheep, must continue at this low ebb they are now at, if they fall no lower. The removal then of this great Mischief, is the next thing we are to consider; and herein I must content my self to receive the Censures of several Persons of the contrary party, I mean those persons whose fortunes and imployments lye principally in the buying, not growing of this Commodity; but they are not so many.

First then, *Spanish* Wool must of necessity advance somthing towards the price it was formerly at, when our Wool yielded 16 *d.* and 18 *d.* the Pound: For that being so much finer than ours, and bearing but a low price, we cannot expect ours should rise: and if this advance of the *Spanish* Wool is not to be expected from

from abroad, then we muſt endeavour what can be done at home.

If ſome Duty or Cuſtome were laid upon it (I ſhall not preſume to propoſe the Sum) ſo as to bring it to bear a conſiderable Rate; His Majeſty by this means would receive a good addition to his Cuſtomes, and our own Wool would be brought to a conſiderable price. As for the prohibiting this or moſt other forrain Commodities, we may finde upon examination, and by experience too, that that way will not ſo well anſwer our deſigne, as the laying a ſufficient Duty upon them, more or leſs, according to the quality of the Commodity. I will inſtance only in the *Iriſh* Act: if 20 or 30 *s.* more or leſs upon a Bullock, and 5 *s.* upon a Sheep, or thereabout, had been laid as a Duty upon them, inſtead of prohibiting them; we had not only continued ſtill our Trade and Commerce with them, but His Majeſty had received ere this many a Thouſand Pound for his Cuſtome. For as the caſe now ſtands, the King receives no advantage by them; His Officers in all Ports where they are landed (being not obliged by their Office, take no notice of them) do rather help the concealing them, than any way endeavour a ſeizure: which if otherwiſe, they were then all bound by their Offices to receive his Majeſties Duty; and then each Bullock and Sheep paying ſo much Cuſtome, they could not under-ſell us; which was the great deſigne of that Act, *viz.* The keeping up the price of our *Engliſh* Cattle. So that an Impoſt upon this, as well as all other Commodities, will better anſwer our Intereſt and Deſignes againſt them, than a Prohibition; for here can be no other ſhift, if the Officers be honeſt and careful, but the paying their Money.

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The Manufacture of our Wool being brought to this settlement at home, this Heroick King *Edward* the Third makes this other Statute in the same 11*th* year of his Reign, *That no Merchant, Forrain nor Denizen, nor any other, after the Feast of St.* Michael, *shall cause to be brought privily or apertly, by himself, nor by any other, into the said Lands of* England, Ireland, Wales *and* Scotland *within the Kings Power, any Cloaths made in any other places than in the same, upon Forfeiture of the said Cloath, and further to be punish'd at the Kings Will as is aforesaid.*

But because this Nation formerly had been, and still is too much wedded to the wearing of Forreign Manufactures, the importing of which did hinder the using of our own home-made Manufactures; (for too much of them make our own a drug, our Nation poor, and our People to want work:) As a cure for this disease our own *English* Cloath is enjoyned by a Law to be worn by all persons under the degree of a Lord; and

then

we may ſee a fair progreſs towards it in few years.

Let us enquire in the firſt place into the Reaſons of the low Rates and Prices of our Wool, and we ſhall finde that we may bring them under theſe few chief Heads: For I ſhall not concern my ſelf with the factious humours of many, and I fear a great part of our Clothiers and Traders, and their deſigns too, in falling the price of our Wool; which in time together with their Factions we hope may wear out.

1. *Firſt* then, The great quantity of *Spaniſh* Wool ſold here at very low rates, and that made into Cloath, and a good part of it worn by our ſelves, is a very great Cauſe of the abatement and low price of ours.

2. *Secondly*, The not wearing and otherways uſing at home, and by our People in our ſeveral Plantations abroad, may be lookt upon as another Cauſe of the great abatement of the price of our Wool.

3. *Thirdly*, The decaying condition of the Merchant-Adventurers, and *Hamborough*-Company, who did formerly ſend away ſo many of our *Engliſh*-Cloaths into *Germany*, and all thoſe Eaſtern parts of *Europe*, more than they now do, may be reckon'd another Cauſe of the low price of our Wool.

4. *Fourthly*, The not making our Cloath of that ſize and ſubſtance as it ought to be, as by ſeveral Statutes to that purpoſe it may appear, and for which the *Alnage*-Office was at firſt eſtabliſht.

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then

14

A DISCOURSE

SHEWING

That the Exportation of Wooll is deſtructive to this KINGDOM.

WHEREIN

Is alſo Shewed the abſolute neceſſity of promoting our Woollen Manufacture, and moderating the Importation of ſome Commodities, and Prohibiting others.

With ſome eaſie Expedients tending thereunto.

By *Thomas Manly* Eſquire.

Licenſed *March* 8. 1676. *Ro. L' Eſtrange.*

LONDON.

Printed for *Samuel Crouch* 1677.

Reader,

ALtho the Opinion debated in the following Papers be frequently found among worthy men, and ſuch who truly love their Country, yet I ſhrewdly ſuſpect 'tis of Forreign Original cunningly introduc'd and trim'd up like a Native, the eaſier in ſuch a diſguiſe, to cajole men of no ordinary circumſpection, and who in truth aiming onely at the common welfare of their Country, would abhor (whatever other men may do) to betray it to the intereſt of a ſtranger.

That 'tis of Forreign production may modeſtly be preſum'd from the neceſsity the Forreigner hath for our wooll to mix with theirs, and without which they can ſcarce make a tollerable piece of Drapery, from their ſubtil contrivances to purloyn it from us, even at any

expence and hazard, and from the ſuperlative advantages they may gain by Commerce, and employing their people if once our Laws were repeal'd, which render it hazardous, ſcarce and chargeable to them: ſo that you ſee what ever gaudy diſguizes for our advantage, forſooth, the Adjutators have clap't on the deſign, do but ſnatch off the Vizard, and preſently a Forreigner appears in Maſquerade: who (kind man!) deſigning our good equal to the reſt of his Neighbours, and fearing other operations may work too ſlowly, preſcribes us this infallible Doſe; *---from which good Lord deliver us.*

The reſt I leave to be diſcharg'd by the following Papers, which aiming onely at the honour and welfare of my King and Country, may be, I hope, as candidly accepted.

J. M.

Exportation of Wooll Deſtructive to this Kingdom.

HAving lately in diſcourſe with ſome perſons of Quality, obſerved an Opinion favouring the repeal of the Laws now in force reſtraining the Exportation of Wooll, (a diſcourſe of harſh ſound to my old *Engliſh* underſtanding) I could not then refrain from offering ſuch Reaſons as then occur'd againſt a matter of ſuch pernicious conſequence, however the contrary may be underſtood by Gentlemen who truly love their Country; what through incogitancy, or want of time, I then omitted, I now in love to my Country, offer to conſideration.

I wiſh, to proceed clearly, ſet down, in the firſt place, the reaſons alledg'd for Repealing thoſe Laws, ſo far as I can collect from the favourers of that Opinion, and then briefly give my reaſons to the contrary; modeſtly ſubmitting my ſelf to the Judgment of Reader.

1. *Our ſtore of wooll* (ſay they) *is ſo great, that we have ſufficient both for our ſelves and Neighbours.*

2. *Its free and unreſtrained Exportation will occaſion a great encreaſe in its price, which will ſuſtain our drooping Rents, and draw conſiderable ſums of mony from abroad, for ſo deſirable a Commodity.*

3. *That tho we uſe all care imaginable to prevent its Exportation, yet our Neighbours, by means of our own people, draw great quantities from us.*

4. *'Tis to ſmall purpoſe to keep our wooll at home, for that* Ireland *ſupplies our Neighbours therewith to a great degree.*

5. *This prohibition of wooll is a new practice, unknown to us till within theſe twenty years, and yet before that time, both wooll and Drapery yielded the beſt Rates for above 60 years laſt paſt.*

To the firſt *I Anſwer.*

1. That I conceive our yearly encreaſe of Wooll is now no greater than when the Rates were double, nay treble, to what

they now are; and if ſo, the fall and meanneſs of the price proceeds purely from the loſs of forreign Markets for our Drapery, and from our own forſaking the wear of it, and not from the quantity above what we had 30 or 40 years ago.

2. 'Tis very manifeſt how the Rates of Wooll theſe laſt 15 or 16 years, have gradually faln from bad to worſe, and how as by degrees we have encreaſ'd in the wearing of Silk, Camlets, and frowſie *French* Druggets, and as our Neighbours, eſpecially the *French*, have enlarg'd their woollen Manufacture by means of our wooll, which they mix with theirs, juſt ſo have the Rates of this Commodity with us ſunk almoſt beyond belief.

3. That ſeeing we have a multitude of people, who for want of employment, want bread, and that the price of Wooll here is ſo low as to tempt us to let out that commodity, which the wiſdom of this Trading Age hath hitherto ſecur'd under Public Prohibitions, as being the prime fund of our Trade and Navigation, and which is ſo neceſſary to our active Neighbours, that no Laws, how Penal ſoever, have yet totally debar'd them from it, what do we elſe by ſuch a deſign, but declare that henceforth, being not able to manage that Manufacture, we abandon all thoughts of an advantagious commerce, neceſſitate our people to live on us, or dye at our doors, and ſurrender to our Neighbours that Manufacture for which we were once ſo notorious? is not this, at once, *to caſt the Childrens bread to ſtrangers*; and to remain for ever without hopes to maintain, after ſuch a dereliction, any Manufacture which our Neighbours may hav a mind to ſnatch from us?

4. If our Neighbours could have Wooll as good to all intents and purpoſes, and as plentifull and cheap from other Countries, it might peradventure, be adviſable, how far we ought to keep ours at home; but the caſe being otherwaies, and they (our Rivals) being not able to carry on that Manufacture effectually without it, it ſeems a great miſtake and dangerous to ſpare it on any terms.

To the ſecond Reaſon; *That it will occaſion the Rates of wooll to riſe, and thereby ſuſtain our drooping Rents, &c.*

I Anſwer.

1. The wear and uſe of Silk, Camlets, &c. have ſo far ſupplanted that of Drapery in *Europe*, that we muſt never rationally expect

expect thoſe Rates for Wooll which were uſually given 30 or 40 years ago.

2. If we find bad markets for Drapery now Wooll is cheap, 'tis very improbable our Neighbours will take ſo much Wooll from us as to raiſe the price thereof to that degree as may ſuſtain our falling Rents; for the dearer we ſell them our Wooll the dearer they muſt ſell their Drapery, and conſequently ſell ſo much leſs; or elſe it will be our ſhame or ill fortune that they ſhall vent much Drapery made of dear Wooll, and we vent little or none, now wooll is cheap.

3. The more Markets our Neighbours ſupply with Drapery, by means of our Wooll, the leſs Drapery we muſt Export; the reaſon is, becauſe there is a certain and determined quantity of Cloth conſum'd by the Trading world; whence it muſt neceſſarily follow that ſo much wooll as they receive from us, ſo much leſs Drapery we our ſelves ſhall Export, and conſequently the price of wooll remain the ſame it was before thoſe Laws were repeal'd.

4. Upon repealing thoſe Laws we may bid adue to the Exportation of Drapery; the reaſon is, becauſe our Neighbours live, work and Navigate cheaper than we; and having once our wooll in common, muſt neceſſarily underſell, and beat us out of Trade: it being a great miſtake to imagine that the Exportation of our wooll and Drapery may conſiſt together; and as great a miſtake to ſuppoſe that the pretended encreaſe of the Rates of wooll occaſioned by an allowance of its Exportation, may ballance the miſchiefs accrewing thereby; becauſe *a pound of wooll Manufactur'd and Exported, is of more worth to us by employing our people, than ten pound exported raw at double the preſent rate*; unleſs, which is not reaſonable to imagine, we could introduce ſome other better employment for them.

5. If our Neighbours tread on our heels in this Manufacture, begin to ſupply us with their Drapery at home, and to ſupplant us therewith abroad, having onely their own corſe wooll; which they mix with ours obtain'd at dear rates (by reaſon of ſecrecy and many chargeable contrivances alwaies attending a prohibited traffick) there is no doubt, when once the prohibition is remov'd, and they by that means plentifully ſupply'd therewith (which in an open and allowed commerce is alwaies cheapeſt) but that they

will

will ſoon beat us wholly out of that Trade, and by conſequence e're long out of all other Commerce and Navigation to boot.

6. Every pound of our Wooll now worth five pence (and which makes about a yard of broad Cloth worth 8 or 9 *s.*) being Exported, and mixt with our Neighbours coarſe Wooll, helps them to make 3 or 4 yards of Cloth, which probably hinders us of all that advantage, which by employing our people, would otherwayes accrew to us, beſides the benefit of Commerce and Navigation; which muſt decline as our Drapery leſſens, and as *we languiſh by ſending out our Treaſure to Import Apes and Peacocks: what the conſequence thereof may be, when the moſt formidable and daring Nation is viſibly ſeizing on Trade, and the Ocean, is obvious to every reaſonable man*; and how His Majeſties Revenue may be ſupply'd, when our Manufactures are loſt, our Treaſure waſted, and Rents ſubdu'd, by our exceſs in Forreign Commodities, is worthy of conſideration.

7. The Exportation of our Wooll will be ſo farre from ſuſtaining our drooping Rents, that tho we may Export the whole yearly growth thereof, yet I conceive it will not anſwer the value of our Drapery, which hitherto we have yearly Exported, and by conſequence, ſo much loſs muſt redound to us, as the wooll Exported may be of leſs value than our Drapery; without any conſideration had to the want of employment for our people, or to the inſignificant Navigation which the freight of wooll will occaſion, compar'd with that of Drapery; *and how Politic it may be to leſſen the value of our Exits, which already are ſo trivial and ſo exceedingly Overballanc'd by importations to foment our luxury, I leave to the judgement of every man, who conſiders that 'tis the Exportation of the Growth and Manufactures which deſerve the name of Trade, and makes a Nation rich.*

8. But ſuppoſe that by repeal of the Laws the value of our Wooll ſhould riſe conſiderably (which for the reaſons already given is very improbable) whereby our Neighbours ſhould be enabled to manage that important Manufacture, which otherwiſe they could never effect, muſt it not neceſſarily follow that as they enlarge their Drapery ſo ours muſt leſſen, and gradually ſhrink to nothing, our Navigation decline for want of ſo ſtaple a Commodity wherewith to Traffic, our Treaſure yet more convey'd abroad to manage a wanton and Luxurious Commerce, multitudes of our people

people who ſubſiſted by that Manufacture Expos'd to ruine, and as many in every Age, thereby becoming uſeleſs, and poor muſt become chargeable, and may become dangerous to the Kingdom: all which muſt and will inevitably ſubdue our Rents to a degree farre beyond any relief or benefit we may reaſonably expect from any encreaſe of the price of wooll, occaſioned by the repeal of our Laws: hence an experienced Merchant, who in other Commodities was himſelf a great ſmugler, us'd to ſay, that the offence of exporting wooll was like the *ſin againſt the Holy Ghoſt, not to be forgiven*; can the injury then be leſs to the Common-Wealth if it go out by a Law?

The preſent Parliament hath had right ſentiments in this matter, when (as by the Preamble of the Statute may appear) *for the better ſetting on work the Inhabitants of this* Realm, *and to the intent that the full and beſt uſe and benefit of the principal native commodities thereof, may come unto the Subjects of the ſame, and not unto the Subjects of Forreign Realms as heretofore*, they prohibited the Exportation of this Commodity: the like care and good meaning did alſo appear in them (however perverſe and ſilly people have hitherto rendred it uſeleſs) when *for the encouragement of our woollen Manufacture, and prevention of the Exportation of our monies for the buying and importing of Linnen* (the very words of the Preamble) they enacted, *that none ſhould be buried in other than woollen*: Now he that ſhould Vote for the Exportation of wooll and cenſure the Act for burying in woollen, muſt invert every period of theſe moſt excellent Preambles, and ſay, *That for the better employing the Subjects of Forreign* Realms, *and to the intent the beſt uſe and benefit of the principal Native Commodities of this* declining *Kingdom may come unto the Subjects of Forreign Countries, as one, two, or* 300 *years ago it did, and be no longer continued unto the people of this Realm, as has been us'd by the ſpace of* 60 *years laſt paſt*; *and to the intent that the woollen Manufacture may be diſcouraged, and the Exportation of Monies encreas'd to buy and import Linnen from our truſty Neighbours*, eſpecially the French, *let wooll be freely exported, and none buried in woollen, except ſuch as dye of cold diſeaſes.*

To the third Reaſon for repealing our Laws; *That our Neighbours with the help of our people get great quantities of our wool*

 daily

daily from us notwithſtanding thoſe Laws to the contrary.

I Anſwer.

1. That ſuch practices are ſhrewd evidences of what eſteem that commodity is among them, and that what is thus purloyn'd coſt the Receiver dear, by reaſon of ſecrecy, ſubtil contrivances, &c. as hath been already hinted, (for who will venture hanging for nothing?) which upon repealing thoſe Laws will come freely to them without any ſuch incumbrances, and conſequently cheaper, whereby they may be enabled to conteſt with us in this important Manufacture on even terms.

2. Our Neighbours by theſe undue practices either have or have not ſufficient of our wooll already; if they have, there will be no need of repealing thoſe Laws, and we may juſtly charge the preſent dullneſs of Forreign Markets for our Drapery upon the export of our wooll by theſe vile practices; which muſt needs grow worſe when thoſe Laws are repealed; but if they have not enough by reaſon of the prohibition, let us thank the Laws for it; and yet obſerve that 'tis a pregnant argument that by our wooll, thus unduly obtain'd, they manage a conſiderable Manufacture, for it ſeems *they get great quanties from us*; and that if they had more they would enlarge their commerce, which muſt neceſſarily undermine and leſſen ours.

3. It is better particular perſons do acts hurtful to the Public againſt Law, than for want of a Law, becauſe this latter would reflect on the wiſdom of the Government.

4. Should we repeal the Laws againſt the Exportation of wooll, becauſe againſt Law wooll is Exported we ſhould tranſcribe their wiſdom that would repeal Laws againſt felony, becauſe ill men contrary to Law commit Robberies; or imitate thoſe who will not ſhut their doors becauſe Thieves ſometime break in at the windows.

To the fourth reaſon, That 'tis to ſmall purpoſe to keep our wooll at home, for that Ireland ſupplies our Neighbours therewith, &c.

I Anſwer.

1. If this be true, it is to ſmall purpoſe to permit its Exportation in hopes to put a better value on it, which is the moſt avowed reaſon for the repeal: for if our Neighbours be plentifully ſupplyed therewith from *Ireland*, where 'tis much cheaper

cheaper at preſent then with us, (and probably ever will) there is ſmall reaſon to expect better Rates for Ours: for who will give us ſix pence for that pound of wooll which in *Ireland* may be had for four pence? unleſs it may be granted that ours is better than that of *Ireland*; which few of the Adjutators will, for certain Reaſons, be willing to confeſs.

2. If the *Iriſh* wooll enables the Forreigner to carry on that Manufacture to a degree hurtful to us, we have ſmall reaſon to aſſiſt them further therein by affording them ours, ſeeing they enjoy advantages too many already; leaſt we immitate thoſe good men, who break the pot becauſe their wives break the pitcher; ruine our ſelves becauſe *Ireland* hurts us.

To the laſt reaſon, that the prohibition of wooll is a new practice unknown to us till within this twenty years, and yet before that time both *Wooll* and *Drapery* yielded the beſt Rates, for above 60 years laſt paſt.

I Anſwer.

1. That 'tis very true, but it does not follow that the prohibition was therefore unneceſſary, or that the ſame brought a prejudice upon either; but that other reaſons already given, muſt be aſſigned for the fall and meanneſs of the Rates of thoſe Commodities; it being no waies queſtionable, but that the exportation of our Drapery had long ſince expired, had not the prohibition of wooll interpos'd.

2. *S*tatutes are provided to anſwer the preſent emergencie and reaſon of Affaires, and adapted to the occaſion and Intereſt of the Age wherein they are made, ſo that what was judg'd unneceſſary in former Ages, may be of ſuperlative uſe in this; and if the reaſon thereof again ceaſe, may be as inſignificant in the next.

3. We had no need of ſuch reſtraining Laws long before they were enacted; for till the peace of *Munſter*, *England* alone enjoy'd almoſt the whole Manufacture of *Europe*: But *France* (who then alſo receiv'd woollen Drapery from us) agitated ſince that peace by a moſt ſagacious Counſel (who underſtands the advantages of Manufactures and Navigation) and fild with an active and enterprizing people, 'has unhappily added that Manufacture to the many other advantages they enjoy for commerce, above moſt

other Nations; and hath all things propitious for the managing thereof except fine wooll, such as ours is, to mix with their own: Must our Anceſtours proceedings then who were govern'd by reaſons farre different from ours, be preſidents to us? or is it not rather high time to employ our utmoſt skill to retain ſo neceſſary a Commodity at home.

I have late'y met with one Merchant of no ſmall pretences to the intrigues of Trade, who, although he will not allow that the Rates of wooll may encreaſe upon the repeal of our Lawes, (which is the prime reaſon alleadged for repeal of the prohibition) yet affirms that if the prohibition were remov'd and due Impoſts charg'd upon wooll, it might thereby, better than by the prohibition, be either retain'd at home, or rendred ſo chargeable to our Neighbours that we might have ſufficient advantages over them in that Manufacture.

To which, *I anſwer.*

1. That he which affirms all this, muſt maintain that either his Majeſties Officers of His Cuſtoms will be more induſtrious to collect the Duties, and Impoſts ſo to be charg'd on this Commodity, than they were to make Seizures of it by vertue of the prohibition, tho they had a Moyety of the Seizure, or that the Exporters will be more conſciencious in paying His Majeſties Impoſts, than they were in obeying His Laws which prohibited the Exportation, tho they ventured their necks into the bargain, or that the Forreigner may be leſs deſirous of it after the repeal than before.

2. The Impoſts muſt be either much, or little; if much, it may be worth venturing to ſave the payment; as is too frequently practic'd in payments of the like Nature; but if they be little, the payment of them will be eaſily ballanc'd by the advantages our Neighbours have over us in cheap dyet, labour, &c. as has been already ſhewed.

If, to what has been ſaid, it be reply'd that it is better export wooll, then neither wooll nor Drapery.

I Rejoyn.

1. That it is ſo, were it true that we exported no Drapery, and remain'd without hopes of ever ſharing again in Forreign Markets: but thanks be to God matters are not yet arriv'd to ſo ill terms, and probably never will, unleſs ſome aſpiring Neighbour (who may deſign to engroſs all Traffic) beat us out of the Mediterra-

terranean Sea, or that we let out our wooll by a Law.

2. If we do yet more effectually provide to keep our wooll at home, 'tis a thouſand to one but our Drapery will off: but if once we export our wooll by a Law (charge it with what Impoſt, and confine it to what Ports and ſeaſons you pleaſe, as ſome vainly orſlily propoſe) we may bid an Eternal adieu to the Exportation our woollen Manufacture.

Who will buy our wooll, ſeeing we ſlight it our ſelves? will the *French*? to what end? to employ their people, and carry on a Manufacture as univerſal as their other deſigns, have they not of late charg'd our Drapery with heavy impoſitions, meerly to diſcourage its coming among them, the better to employ their own people? and muſt we then return the civility with ſuch advantage to them?

4. And laſtly, to export our wooll becauſe at preſent we want vent for our Drapery, is for ever to confirm in that want; and is a choyce like pulling down my houſe for fear it may be burnt, or like hanging my ſelf leaſt any other kill me.

If I be ask'd what we ſhall do with our wooll ſeeing its Exportation is of ſuch dreadfull conſequence, and our Drapery ſo neglected at home,

I Anſwer.

1. That tho we cannot impoſe our Drapery on our Neighbours, yet we might eaſily nick ſome of them in their Wines, Brandies, and Bawbles, which are as neceſſary for them to vent as Drapery is for us, and are as unprofitable for us to receive. And ſurely we might alſo provide yet better to keep our wooll at home.

2. And Secondly, ſeeing the generality of Mankind purſues rather vain examples than rules of Reaſon, and wants judgment to diſcern things hurtful to the Public Authority, hath frequently preſcrib'd the Subject in point of Clothes: and he that conſiders the habit of our people at this day, might ſuppoſe ſilk, and not wooll the native commodity of this Kingdom.

I therefore humbly propoſe.

1. That the Laws againſt the Exportation of wooll be conſulted, and if upon enquiry they appear too ſhort to reach all the tricks and contrivances of the enormous Exportors, to provide yet further remedies againſt them: propoſing eſpecially large

rewards

rewards and Characters of eſteem to thoſe who ſhall, at any time, diſcover the Managers of ſo ruinous a Commerce; the puniſhing of whoſe Eſtate (if they have any) and not the perſons, being poſſibly the moſt effectual means to animate informations; becauſe moſt men would rather make dicoveries, in this caſe, for gain to themſelves, than onely bring corporal puniſhment on others; and where the Criminals have no Eſtate, and are not apprehended to receive due puniſhment, the Diviſion, or Hundred, as in caſes of Robberies, ought to be fin'd to pay the Informer; it being certain, the Neighbourhood knows the Criminals and their Intrigues, and might without much difficulty either apprehend or drive them out of the Country: and 'tis worth enquiry how farre ſome of thoſe very perſons commiſſionated to prevent theſe practices, are themſelves guilty of fomenting them, as ſome do report: and then beſides, the wayes and methods to purſue theſe offendors and recover the Fines, ought to be as plain, ſhort, and eaſie, as the wiſdom of a Counſel can contrive: and where the diſcoveries are made by any one Employed in theſe practices, Indemnity and Rewards ought to be provided for him alſo; and that ſuch a Diſcoverer, or other ſingle witneſs (tho he hath profit thereby) ought to be ſufficient evidence, becauſe it is a work of Darkneſs, and more diſtructive than Robbery; it being better for us to run the harzard, that one man in ſeven years be injured by the perjury of an Informer, than that ſo many vile Offenders eſcape for want of witneſs, who have no benefit by the Seizure and evidence.

2. That a Law might paſs that every man uſing any Manual Occupation, Trade or Miſtery, Inholders, Marriners and Maſters of Ships, and every perſon of like quality, not having an Eſtate, Real and Perſonal to ſuch a value, and the wife, widow and children of every ſuch, and the Child of every perſon not having an Eſtate Real and Perſonal, to be limited by the Statute, being under eighteen years of Age, (the Eſtates to be proved upon Oath) who ſhall wear any manner of Garment or Stockings made of other then wool, flax, hemp, Cotten or Callico, ſhall for every offence forfeit to the Poor of the Pariſh where the offence ſhall be committed, a valuable Sum; and every Servant (other then the Domeſtics of ſome Peers of the Realm) offending in the premiſes, ſhall forfeit the like Sum: unleſs it appear upon Oath that the

Garment

Garment &c, ſo worn, was either made before the Statute, or ſince given by his or her Maſter or Miſtreſs: all which Forfeitures upon the Oath of one credible witneſs, to be levied by warrant from two Juſtices of the peace upon the offender, their husbands, Parents, &c. and for want of ſuch Diſtreſs, Impriſonment without Bayle, &c. And for the more vigorous execution of ſo neceſſary a work, the two next Juſtices under ſome penalty yearly to nominate and ſwear two or more honeſt Inhabitants of every Pariſh to execute the ſaid Act; who for their greater encouragement may receive ſome part of the Fine. And if any one pretend this Law may prejudice ſome thouſands of *Silkweavers*, ſome *Mercers*, &c. I more truly affirm the ſame will be abundantly recompenced by raiſing the Rates of Wooll, which will refreſh our Rents, by providing Employments for four times that number of *Breakers*, *Kembers*, *Carders*, *Spinners*, *Weavers*, *Fullers*, *Shearmen*, *Clothiers*, *Drapers*, *&c*, and by reducing an extravagant People to a decent and modeſt Apparel: And if His Majeſty, by paſſing ſuch a Bill, may poſſibly looſe ſomething at preſent in His Cuſtoms, it will be happily ſupply'd by the glory redounding thereby to His Government, by the hearty thanks and prayers of His intelligent Subjects, for ſo gracious an Act, and by continuing us in a condition to make good and ſuſtain ſo ſplendid a Revenue; which will be impoſſible to do, if we ſtill forſake and diſuſe our Growths and Manufactures, and continue to conſume ſo much of the Ferreign.

3. And Laſtly, whereas the late Statute for burial in VVoollen hath not wrought the intended good effect, for want of Officers to inſpect its execution, I humbly propoſe that ſome one honeſt Inhabitant of every Pariſh be, by the two next Juſtices of the Peace, under ſome penalty, yearly nominated and ſworn to inſpect the Corps the Morning before interrment, and certifie the Miniſter under his hand that the defunct is wrapt according to the Statute; for which Certificate the ſearcher ſhall from the Executor, &c. (in caſe the defunct paid ſcot and lot) receive ſome ſmall fee: and without which Certificate, the Miniſter under ſome penalty, may not inhume the Corps: a penalty payable to the poor of the Pariſh, and teniably by warrant from two Juſtices of the Peace, being alſo laid on thoſe who ſhall not comply with the ſaid Statute, or ſhall diſturb the Officer in doing his duty.

A Law on each of theſe Subjects, with right plac'd penalties, muſt neceſſarily quicken the conſumption of our Drapery at home, enlarge our Markets abroad, and put a better value on our wooll than ſpare it on ſuch deſtructive & ruinous terms. And if my Arguments have been too frivolous to prevail on the Judgement of any man, who yet may remain diſſatisfied in the point, I heartily deſire him to believe, the ſame proceeds purely from the incapacity of the Undertaker; being confident that tho my ſelf may not have been ſo lucky to draw out ſuch conquering Arguments as the ſubject may afford, yet arguments there are, invincible in the caſe; ----and that we muſt by all the Mothods imaginable, *promote the Manufacture and wear of our own woollen, moderate the conſumption of Wines, Silks and Camlets, prohibit Brandy, Coffee, and other idle and new fangled liquors, which hindring the expence of our own wholeſome drinks, ſubdue our Rents, prevent the importatation of a thouſand trifles, which draw our Treaſure from us, obviate Forreign Deſigns, and keep our Wooll at home, or periſh.*

FINIS.